

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the present application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) An absorbent article (40) comprising an absorbent (66), the absorbent article being configured for disposition within ~~[[the]]~~ a vestibule (42) of a female wearer, the absorbent having a substantially circular geometry and a periphery, the absorbent having at least one notch (100) situated in its periphery, wherein the at least one notch extends through an entire z-axis thickness of the absorbent and extends inward from the periphery of the absorbent; and the substantially circular absorbent has a thickness of no less than about 1 mm and a basis weight of no less than 100 g/m².
2. (currently amended) The absorbent article of claim 1, wherein the notch extends inward from the periphery of the absorbent to a depth of no less than about 2 mm.
3. (currently amended) The absorbent article of claim 2, wherein the notch has dimensions sufficient to allow the absorbent article to maintain a substantially spaced relationship from a female wearer's clitoris (60) when the absorbent article is disposed within the vestibule with the notch located in that portion of the absorbent article situated nearest the clitoris.
4. (original) The absorbent article of claim 2, wherein the notch has a depth (102) no greater than about 30 mm; and wherein the notch has a width (104) no greater than about 30 mm.
5. (currently amended) The absorbent article of claim 2, wherein the notch has dimensions sufficient to allow the absorbent article to maintain a substantially spaced relationship from a female wearer's perineum (50) when the absorbent article is disposed within the vestibule with the notch located in that portion of the absorbent article situated nearest the perineum.
6. (original) The absorbent article of claim 1, further comprising a fluid permeable cover (62).
7. (original) The absorbent article of claim 6, wherein the cover encloses the absorbent.
8. (original) The absorbent article of claim 1, further comprising a liquid impermeable baffle (64).

9. (currently amended) The absorbent article of ~~claim 6, further comprising a liquid impermeable baffle (64)~~ claim 1, wherein the notch extends inward from the periphery of the absorbent to a depth of no less than 3 mm.

10. (original) The absorbent article of claim 1, wherein the absorbent further comprises a superabsorbent polymer.

11. (currently amended) An absorbent article (40) comprising a fluid permeable cover (62), a liquid impermeable baffle (64) and an absorbent (66) situated between the cover and the baffle, the absorbent article being configured for disposition within ~~[[the]]~~ a vestibule (42) of a female wearer, the absorbent having a substantially circular geometry and a periphery, the absorbent having at least one notch (100) situated in its periphery, wherein
the at least one notch extends through an entire z-axis thickness of the absorbent and extends inward from the periphery of the absorbent; and
the substantially circular absorbent has a thickness of no less than about 1 mm and a basis weight of no less than about 150 g/m².

12. (currently amended) The absorbent article of claim 11, wherein the notch extends inward from the periphery of the absorbent to a depth of no less than about 4 mm.

13. (currently amended) The absorbent article of claim 12, wherein the notch has dimensions sufficient to allow the absorbent article to maintain a substantially spaced relationship from a female wearer's clitoris (60) when the absorbent article is disposed within the vestibule with the notch located in that portion of the absorbent article situated nearest the clitoris.

14. (original) The absorbent article of claim 12, wherein the notch has a depth (102) no greater than about 30 mm; and wherein the notch has a width (104) no greater than about 30 mm.

15. (currently amended) The absorbent article of claim 12, wherein the notch has dimensions sufficient to allow the absorbent article to maintain a substantially spaced relationship from a female wearer's perineum (50) when the absorbent article is disposed within the vestibule with the notch located in that portion of the absorbent article situated nearest the perineum.

16. (original) The absorbent article of claim 11, wherein the cover encloses the absorbent.

17. (original) The absorbent article of claim 11, wherein the absorbent further comprises a superabsorbent polymer.

18. (currently amended) An absorbent article (40) comprising a liquid impermeable baffle (64) and an absorbent (66), the absorbent article being configured for disposition within ~~[[the]]~~ a vestibule (42) of a female wearer, the absorbent having a substantially circular geometry and a periphery, the absorbent having at least one notch (100) situated in its periphery, wherein the at least one notch extends through an entire z-axis thickness of the absorbent and extends inward from the periphery of the absorbent to a depth of no less than about 5 mm; and the substantially circular absorbent has a thickness of no less than about 1 mm and a basis weight of no less than about 100 g/m².

AS 19. (currently amended) The absorbent article of claim 18, wherein the notch extends inward from the periphery of the absorbent with a depth of no less than about 10 mm.

20. (currently amended) The absorbent article of claim 19, wherein the notch has dimensions sufficient to allow the absorbent article to maintain a substantially spaced relationship from a female wearer's clitoris (60) when the absorbent article is disposed within the vestibule with the notch located in that portion of the absorbent article situated nearest the clitoris.

21. (original) The absorbent article of claim 19, wherein the notch has a depth (102) no greater than about 30 mm; and wherein the notch has a width (104) no greater than about 30 mm.

22. (currently amended) The absorbent article of claim 19, wherein the notch has dimensions sufficient to allow the absorbent article to maintain a substantially spaced relationship from a female wearer's perineum (50) when the absorbent article is disposed within the vestibule with the notch located in that portion of the absorbent article situated nearest the perineum.

23. (currently amended) The absorbent article of claim 18, ~~further comprising a fluid permeable cover (62)~~ wherein the substantially circular absorbent has a basis weight of no less than about 150 g/m².

24. (original) The absorbent article of claim 23, wherein the cover encloses the absorbent.

25. (original) The absorbent article of claim 18, wherein the absorbent further comprises a superabsorbent polymer.

26. (currently amended) An absorbent article (40) comprising a fluid permeable cover (62) and an absorbent (66), the absorbent article being configured for disposition within ~~[[the]]~~ a vestibule (42) of a female wearer, the absorbent having a substantially circular geometry and a periphery, the absorbent having at least one notch (100) situated in its periphery, wherein the at least one notch extends through an entire z-axis thickness of the absorbent and extends inward from the periphery of the absorbent to a depth of no less than about 15 mm; and the substantially circular absorbent has a thickness of no less than about 1 mm and a basis weight of no less than about 100 g/m².

27. (currently amended) The absorbent article of claim 26, wherein the notch extends inward from the periphery of the absorbent to a depth of no less than about 20 mm.

AS 28. (currently amended) The absorbent article of claim 27, wherein the notch has dimensions sufficient to allow the absorbent article to maintain a substantially spaced relationship from a female wearer's clitoris (60) when the absorbent article is disposed within the vestibule with the notch located in that portion of the absorbent article situated nearest the clitoris.

29. (original) The absorbent article of claim 27, wherein the notch has a depth (102) no greater than about 30 mm; and wherein the notch has a width (104) no greater than about 30 mm.

30. (currently amended) The absorbent article of claim 27, wherein the notch has dimensions sufficient to allow the absorbent article to maintain a substantially spaced relationship from a female wearer's perineum (50) when the absorbent article is disposed within the vestibule with the notch located in that portion of the absorbent article situated nearest the perineum.

31. (currently amended) The absorbent article of claim 26, ~~further comprising a liquid impermeable baffle (64)~~ wherein the substantially circular absorbent has a basis weight of no less than about 150 g/m².

32. (original) The absorbent article of claim 26, wherein the cover encloses the absorbent.

33. (original) The absorbent article of claim 26, wherein the absorbent further comprises a superabsorbent polymer.

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